

crores at the end of 29-6-79. Thus the country's foreign exchange reserves, far from showing any 'drain' have shown continuous increase in the recent period. However, there has been a distinct slow-down in the pace of reserve accumulation since March, 1978, mainly due to substantial increase in the import bill, reflecting the effect of the liberal import policy being followed by the Government to utilise foreign exchange reserves fruitfully with a view to enhancing the overall growth of the economy and maintaining reasonable price stability.

Appointment of the Fourth Pay Commission

*38. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRI SYED AHMAD

HASHMI:

SHRI F. M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the Third Pay Commission's recommendation for comprehensive review of the structure of pay and allowances of Central Government employees after the 12 monthly index crosses 272 points, Government propose to set up a Fourth Pay Commission for the purpose; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIKARULLAH): (a) and (b) The Third Pay Commission had recommended that should the price level rise above the 12-monthly average of 272 (1960—100) Government should review the position and decide whether the dearness allowance scheme should be extended further or the pay scales themselves should be revised. After the average index figure had crossed 272 points, Government reviewed the position and decided to continue the scheme of dearness allowance. In the circumstances, there is no proposal to set up a Fourth Pay Commission.

Export of tea to U.K.

*39. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that India's export of tea to U.K. has declined recently; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decline has been mainly due to overstocking of teas in U.K. during 1977. The steps taken by the Government in the wake of declining exports in 1978 include (i) the abolition of export duty on tea, (ii) re-introduction in January, 1979 of the system of refund of additional excise duty on packet tea exports, (iii) placing import of tea bag machines under OGL, (iv) the reduction in Import duty on tea bag machines from 75 per cent to 25 per cent from 18-1-1979, and (v) enhancement of rate of compensatory support on export of packet tea and tea bags from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent.

These measures have already started yielding results.

Force-landing of an Indian Airlines plane

*40. SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA:

SHRIMATI SAROJ

KHAPARDE:

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH

ANAND:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Airlines plane on a scheduled flight from Bombay to Cochin had to force-land at Goa on June 29, 1979;